

February 26, 2009 - Slaughter Highlights AmeriCorps Funding in Economic Recovery Act

FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Rep. Slaughter Highlights AmeriCorps
Funding in Recently Enacted Economic Recovery Act

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28),
Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, is proud to highlight funding for
AmeriCorps in the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The economic
recovery legislation signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009,
includes \$201 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community

Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs. Rep. Slaughter urged bill authors to include this funding in the final version of the economic recovery bill.

"The value of national service is tremendous," said Rep. Slaughter. "I cannot think of a better way to help America recover than to send enthusiastic citizens out to address unmet needs and strengthen communities throughout the country."

AmeriCorps is extremely active in Western New York and provides opportunities for citizens of all ages to help improve the nation through service to communities. Traditionally, federal funding for state chapters is distributed through formula funding and competitive grants.

"Congresswoman Slaughter has been a stellar champion of service, and for the men and women who choose to dedicate their lives to volunteerism and service to others," said Mark Lazzara, CEO of Western New York AmeriCorps. "The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 holds great promise, which we intend to fully realize, to provide opportunities for individuals without work to serve their community while they support their families and strengthen our nation."

Furthermore, yesterday President Barack Obama presented his budget for fiscal year 2010 to Congress which makes a substantial investment in national service, setting AmeriCorps on a path to expand from its current 75,000 funded slots to 250,000.

BACKGROUND

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act, which established the Corporation for National and Community Service and brought the full range of domestic community service programs under the umbrella of one central organization.

This legislation built on the first National Service Act signed by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. It also formally launched AmeriCorps, a network of national service programs that engage Americans in intensive service to meet the nation's critical needs in education, public safety, health, and the environment.

The Corporation for National and Community Service usually receives funds through federal appropriations. The Recovery Act includes \$201 million in funding for the Corporation for National and Community Service to support an expansion of AmeriCorps State and National and AmeriCorps VISTA programs.

In 2008 alone, the Western New York AmeriCorps made a tremendous impact on communities across the region:

- 494 AmeriCorps members provided 288,462 hours of service.
- 26,176 volunteers were recruited and provided 215,903 hours of service.
- 282 sites/organizations received AmeriCorps services.
- 3,098,391 pounds of food at a value of \$9,295,173 was delivered to more than 20,000 families throughout WNY.
- 7 GED's were earned by at-risk youth corps members.
- 6,056 K-12 grade students were tutored by AmeriCorps members.
- 294 buildings/homes were reconstructed, renovated, or partially rebuilt by programs.
- 44,395 families were served.
- 36,399 children were served.
- 160,840 individuals were served.

###